ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Image data of optically acquired input images (1) are processed
for emphasizing at least one object class.  First each pixel
point is subjected to a rough classification (10) based on given
first criteria that determine whether or not a pixel point is
relevant for an object recognition.  A reduced image (11) is
formed from the relevant pixel points while the irrelevant pixels
are omitted.  The reduced image (11) is filtered (20) for forming
at least two correlated filter images (21, 22, 23) based on given
second criteria.  Image components relevant for object
recognition and the mutual allocation of these image components
are retained in the filter images.  Then, classification images
(31A, 32A, 33A) are formed from the filter images by classifiers
that work in accordance with predetermined rules.  Evaluation
numbers or weighting factors are allocated to each object class.
Then, the classification images are merged or fused (40) in
accordance with an algorithm to form a combined global decision
or global evaluation for each object class.  The global decision
or evaluation decides, based on the merged images (41A, 41B, 41C)
for each pixel point of the reduced image (11) whether the
respective pixel point belongs to an object class and if so to
which object class.

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